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ABSTRACT

Written and adopted by delegates to the Governor's Conference in Spring 1979, this list of resolutions for libraries and library services in New Jersey covers seven topic areas: (1) general concerns, including the need for a Library and Information Services Planning Act; (2) broader access to public library services; (3) a statewide cooperative network, including the formation of a New Jersey Periodicals Center; (4) funding for public libraries; (5) library governance; (6) public relations; and (7) other concerns, such as the development of cable television in libraries, the need for regional film libraries, and the restructuring of library training to fit present community needs. (FM)

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DELEGATE RESOLUTIONS

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THE NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

ON

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

APRIL, 1979

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DELEGATE RESOLUTIONS

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GENERAL/OVERALL CONCERNS

WHEREAS, Resolutions are being made and adopted by the delegates to the Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services; be it

RESOLVED, that the Resolutions adopted by this Conference be presented to Governor Brendan Byrne; Commissioner of Education, Fred Burke; and State Librarian, Barbara Weaver; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Resolutions be presented to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services by the New Jersey delegates to the Conference in the format prescribed in White House Conference Advisory Memorandum No. 3; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Resolutions be presented by the State Librarian to (1) appropriate library and information service associations and all agencies referred to in the Resolutions; (2) each member of the New Jersey State Legislature; and (3) the state news media; and be it

RESOLVED, that the State Librarian, within 30 days after the completion of the Conference, provide each delegate and alternate with the decisions and conclusions of the Conference so as to allow each delegate to accurately represent the accomplishments to the people of New Jersey by means of the organization or reconvened regional conference that served as their sponsor; and be it

RESOLVED, that the State Librarian provide each delegate and alternate of this Conference with the accomplishments, decisions and conclusions of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the White House Delegates elected by this Conference also serve as a Steering Committee to publicize, encourage, and monitor the progress of the Resolutions adopted by this Conference and that this Steering Committee maintain communication with the delegates to this Conference on the progress and disposition of the Resolutions adopted.

* * *

WHEREAS, this nation's libraries and information services represent a precious resource to its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the effective use and management of this resource requires proper planning; and

WHEREAS, the current planning for library and information services is fragmented; be it

RESOLVED, that the President should recommend that Congress approve a Library and Information Services Planning Act to establish statewide task forces charged with the development of state master plans for the management of library and information resources; and be it

RESOLVED, that these task forces will have a mandate to consolidate the assessment of needs, identify key issues, and set goals and objectives; and be it

RESOLVED, that the act shall provide for establishment of guidelines for the composition of, and procedures to be followed by, the state task forces. Composition to include citizen input and representation from appropriate state agencies and organizations; and be it

RESOLVED, that the act shall authorize federal funding to be allocated to the states to provide professional staffing in support of the task forces; and be it

RESOLVED, that the act shall provide for State Advisory Committees with a ratio of two lay members for each library related member to provide input on technical matters and issues of special needs and interests; and be it

RESOLVED, that the act should require that any federal funding in any areas or through any agencies bearing upon libraries and information services be aligned with said master plans and should encourage all state funding for libraries and information services to be so aligned; and be it;

RESOLVED, that a proposed timetable would allow six months for organizing and staffing, eighteen months for development and preparation of draft master plan, three months for review and approval of plan.

* * *

ACCESS

WHEREAS, we feel that citizens in New Jersey need a broader access to public library services at all levels because there is an increased awareness of the existence of special populations and their needs such as deaf, post-hospitalized (physical and mental, those people requiring habilitative and rehabilitative services), institutionalized, as well as non-English speaking people; and

WHEREAS, there are special information needs related to voters service, business consumers, cultural heritage, ethnic groups, and low literacy level; be it

RESOLVED, that the goal of this Resolution is to provide access to the library for these special groups whose needs and services have herein been identified and to further institute an appropriate assessment by the following process:

> Libraries should be required to assess and provide for their communities' needs, including but not limited to those mentioned above and further that this requirement should be used as a basis for receiving State Aid which should be used to implement programs such as: loan of A-V equipment, easily identified high interest/low reading level material, cultural and scientific programs held in the library, use of library facilities for community activities, library use for instruction for K-12 (special needs), increased public relations, public library mobile services for institutions; and be it

RESOLVED, that compliance with this assessment procedure will determine the measure of State Aid for which they are eligible, and regular periodic review should be conducted at intervals of no less than two years.

* * *

WHEREAS, research is necessary to identify accurately the informational needs of the residents of the State of New Jersey; be it

RESOLVED, that state and/or federal funds be made available to conduct, under the auspices of the State Library, adequate and continuous research and analysis of the needs of the people of New Jersey in the areas of library and information services; and be it

RESOLVED, that such research should be commenced within a year from this Conference.

* * *

WHEREAS, all people are entitled to free access to the information and knowledge within a public library; and

WHEREAS, all people are entitled to the full service of the library network on a local, county, regional, state, and national level such networking to include both vertical and horizontal relationships; be it

RESOLVED, that State aid to public libraries should fund the costs for use of 1) a free statewide public library borrower's card and privileges so that libraries assuming a disproportionate burden from non-resident borrowing might also be reimbursed by the State; 2) technology to provide automated union catalogues, bibliographic control and circulation to all users; and be it

RESOLVED, that the State encourage and foster cooperation and coordination between users and potential users in regard to use of academic, special and school libraries to the end that they may be included in the statewide network.

* * *

WHEREAS, not all the people of New Jersey have full access to library and information services; and

WHEREAS, costs are incurred to provide such access; be it

RESOLVED, that library and information services be available on a full access basis to meet the needs of all persons who live, are enrolled for study, and/or work in New Jersey through a statewide, state funded, state administered library card; and be it

RESOLVED, that legislation be enacted to provide reimbursement funds to libraries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the free state library card system be effective in the fiscal year 1982.

* * *

WHEREAS, much of the library wealth lies in metropolitan centers, such as Philadelphia and New York; and

WHEREAS, a free National Library Card would permit interstate library use; be it

RESOLVED, that the United States Congress enact legislation to establish and to provide reimbursement funds to support a free National Library Card.

* * *

RESOLVED, that the provisions of Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act eliminating interior and exterior construction and communication barriers in new and in existing library facilities be thoroughly enforced at all levels, and that modifications to existing library facilities be enacted no later than July 1982.

* * *

RESOLVED, that all people are entitled to the right of privacy in the selection and use of library materials.

* * *

WHEREAS, as a responsibility of the public library service, books, other library materials and programs should be chosen for values of the community; be it

RESOLVED, that no library exclude above services and materials because of race, age, sex, nationality, social, political, or religious view of the authors, and further, no materials should be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

* * *

RESOLVED, that public access to government documents be assured by a system of depository libraries. The State Library should take an active role in helping local libraries guide users to the appropriate depository and in encouraging government to cooperate in this endeavor.

* * *

WHEREAS, institutionalized citizens of New Jersey are entitled to adequate library services; and

WHEREAS, said institutions, for the most part, provide little or inadequate services; be it

RESOLVED, that the State must act to establish and fund libraries in its institutions to bring existing libraries up to standard.

* * *

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that students who have access to centralized professionally certified staffed library/media collections have shown results in measurable increases in reading achievement; be it

RESOLVED, that adequately funded, centralized and professionally staffed library/media centers be mandated by the State for students enrolled within K-12 grades in public schools, conforming to New Jersey Blueprint for School Media Programs, and develop appropriate programs and current materials, and when possible, in connection with a resource-sharing program with local libraries, extend daily hours and school year; and be it

RESOLVED, that the State Legislature amend T & E legislation requiring all public schools provide such library services, provide funds to establish such libraries in schools without libraries, and be implemented by fiscal year 1981.

* * *

NETWORKING

WHEREAS, a library is inherently limited in its ability to satisfy the needs of all its users solely from its own resources; and

WHEREAS, equal and timely access to statewide library resources by all the people of New Jersey does not exist; be it

RESOLVED, that a multitype, multipurpose statewide cooperative network to include both vertical and horizontal relationships be established and have as its primary, but not exclusive, purpose: 1) to increase the availability of information to all people within the state as a means of resource sharing, and 2) to reduce the rate of rising costs of library services through cooperative elimination of unnecessary duplication of unusual resources and delivery and acquisition systems; and be it

RESOLVED, that this network operate under the auspices of the State Librarian and a Library Network Advisory Boad, composed of representatives of the library and information services communities, and users as well as providers; and be it

RESOLVED, that this network incorporate computerized technologies to facilitate the availability of materials and information; and be it

RESOLVED, that funding for the network come from state and/or federal sources.

* * *

WHEREAS, library computer technology is developing at a rapid rate without coordination or cooperation between systems; be it

RESOLVED, that statewide standards for the development of automated systems be established for the purpose of collecting, storing, retrieving and processing information to be conveniently used by any New Jersey library; and be it

RESOLVED, that standards for these information systems be implemented no later than 1985 through the State Library with representation from the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority, the office of cable television and such other governmental and private agencies which have expertise in this field; and be it further

RESOLVED, that funding of this system be from state and/or federal sources.

* * *

WHEREAS, the cost of periodical literature is rising sharply; and

WHEREAS, the availability of special periodical collections within the state is limited; be it

RESOLVED, that a New Jersey Periodicals Center be established as part of the State Information Service Network and related to the National Periodical Center, to improve access to periodical literature by 1) providing a reliable method of access to periodical literature, 2) reducing the overall costs of acquiring periodical literature by interlibrary loan, 3) reducing the time required to obtain requested material, 4) assuring that, for any document delivered, all copyright obligations are met, and 5) providing libraries with additional options as they establish their own collection development and maintenance policies; and be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey Periodicals Center include a statewide bibliographic control system for periodicals, and should also include such dedicated collections as analysis indicates are necessary and desirable; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey Periodicals Center be established and operated by a combination of state, federal and private funding.

* * *

FUNDING

WHEREAS, all residents of New Jersey have a right to free and equal access to library and information services; and

WHEREAS, the public library is a fundamental unit of the educational process and therefore deserving of a similar major thrust by the state; and

WHEREAS, present funding for public libraries in New Jersey places an undue burden on local property tax support thereby discouraging equality of statewide library services; and

WHEREAS, it is in the state and national interest to integrate local, state and national library resources; be it

RESOLVED, that the state support for public libraries be increased to approximately 40% of statewide public library funding, through a program of direct per capita and equalization aid; however, these state funds should not be used to offset or dilute financial responsibility at the local level; and be it

RESOLVED, that federal funding to a total of 20% of statewide public library funding be sought for research and planning at the state level for pilot and demonstration library service projects especially in areas of new library technology; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the interim NJSA 18:74-64 seq. be fully funded rather than the 75% funding adopted in recent years.

* * *

WHEREAS, we believe all people are entitled to library service that reflects the interests and needs of the total community; and

WHEREAS, county libraries require a stable broad-based funding; be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Library Law be amended to include a provision for referendum to decide whether the county library should receive funding from county operating budgets.

* * *

WHEREAS, the Labor-HEW Appropriation Committee is currently considering a fiscal year 1980 budget that proposes reductions of:

11% in public library funding
7% for school libraries and instructional resources
100% cuts in funding for college library resources and
100% for library training and demonstration programs; be it

RESOLVED, that New Jersey's Congressional delegation be directed immediately to support federal funding for school, college and public libraries at levels that realistically reflect library service needs and the effects of inflation on library purchasing power.

* * *

RESOLVED, that the State of New Jersey should more aggressively seek federal funds, especially in the area of information retrieval. However, these federal funds shall not be used to offset or dilute financial responsibility at the local, regional or state level.

* * *

GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS, we feel that libraries are a basic part of the educational system of the State of New Jersey, be it

RESOLVED, that in order to articulate the basic educational needs of both academic and public libraries, a formal liaison be established between the Department of Higher Education and the Division of the State Library.

* * *

WHEREAS, the best available information suggests that library governing boards are dominated by men and that representatives of the minorities, labor groups and agricultural communities are seldom represented; and

WHEREAS, there are great benefits to be derived from a diversified representation on library boards; be it

RESOLVED, that the Governor's Conference urge the appropriate committees of the State Legislature to hold public hearings to consider the advisability of selecting library board of trustees by popular election.

* * *

WHEREAS, School Districts must comply with New Jersey Public Law Chapter 212 (T & E) and legislation mandating the T & E process seeks to improve the education of every K-12 student; and

WHEREAS, the State Library, within the Department of Education, administrated Federal funding (ESEA, Title II) in 1965, and these funds were appropriated to establish and develop school library/media center programs and maintain school library and media center statistics, and the Public School Education Act of 1975 removed these funds from Administration by the State Library, and the funds are not being used for continued growth and development of school library/media centers; be it

RESOLVED, that ESEA, Title IV B Federal Funds be returned to the State Library for distribution and instructions to participate in development of library/media programs as part of the T & E approval process.

* * *

PUBLIC RELATIONS

WHEREAS, public relations is of great importance to acceptance and implementation of effective library programs, funding, and user input and suggestions to planning for these; be it

RESOLVED, that within a year of this Conference there be developed public relations support, provided by the State Library, to each local library:

1. to help each local library develop a public relations program
2. to publicize library assets, programs and resources
3. to encourage non-users to become patrons
4. to encourage the use of the facilities of the library for community affairs and activities
5. to orient each patron in current and future library resources and uses thereof; and be it

RESOLVED, that on a statewide basis there be created a speakers' bureau for library and information services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Division of the State Library be charged with the development, administration, and implementation of consistent programs of advertising, promotion, and explanation of the resources which are now and may become available within New Jersey's library and information service systems, and that the Division of the State Library for fiscal year (1980-81), and each year thereafter, be allocated adequate funding from the State of New Jersey to successfully establish and operate an Office of Public Information to serve these purposes of increasing community awareness and involvement with the library and information service systems in New Jersey.

• • •

WHEREAS, it is important that public libraries reach the greatest number of persons in the community; be it

RESOLVED, that it is the duty of every library to conduct an on-going program to publicize its resources and activities using all appropriate media available; and be it

RESOLVED, to establish within the library a congenial atmosphere, attractive exhibits and meaningful programs to encourage greater use of the library by the community.

• • •

WHEREAS, a Friends of the Library group primarily serves as a supportive arm of the library; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Library group serves a public relations function, spreading information about programs, activities, resources and needs of the library; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Library provides information about libraries to non-users by involving the whole community in library activities; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Library provide assistance in legislative advocacy and special projects such as "Outreach", and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Library provides funds for the purchase of special equipment and for special projects; be it

RESOLVED, that the State Library provide encouragement and guidance for the establishment of friends units at the local and county levels and provide support for existing units; and be it

RESOLVED, that the delegates of this Conference be offered memberships in a statewide Friends of the Library Association; and be it

RESOLVED, that the delegates be encouraged to provide public relations within their own communities and other places within the state of New Jersey concerning this Conference, resolutions adopted by it, and goals we of the Conference wish to see accomplished, including cooperation among all libraries in present interlibrary loan and future networking; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the State Library is to provide leadership in reactivating this organization which will meet annually.

* * *

WHEREAS, young people should be encouraged to familiarize themselves with library activities; be it

RESOLVED, that libraries recruit volunteer workers from different age brackets.

* * *

OTHER CONCERNS

WHEREAS, futurists predict a quintupling of information by the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, cable television represents a channel of information to many who underutilize the traditional print media; be it

RESOLVED, that local libraries and community television concerns should cooperate to the fullest extent; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Office of Cable Television, the Division of the State Library, and the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority should work to eliminate any possible barriers to the cooperation.

* * *

WHEREAS, this Conference recognizes the need for regional film libraries and all that they encompass, including but not limited to films, filmstrips, video cassettes, recordings, etc.; and

WHEREAS, this Conference supports the increasing utilization of regional film libraries and all that they encompass, including but not limited to films, filmstrips, video cassettes, recordings, etc.; be it

RESOLVED, that existing regional film libraries be fully supported and that additional film libraries be established in those parts of the state not presently served.

* * *

WHEREAS, the professional skills of the librarian are instrumental and essential in the development of service that reflect community needs, the initiation of programs that respond to local interests and the promotion of the library so that citizens can benefit from library services; be it

RESOLVED, that it be recommended that the content of the courses required for a library degree be restructured with appropriate emphasis on identifying and interpreting community needs, up-to-date management skills and public relations techniques; and be it

RESOLVED, that an on-going program of in-service training on librarianship, management skills and public relations techniques shall be provided for library staff on all levels and that participation be actively encouraged and reimbursement be provided by library directors and boards.

* * *

RESOLVED, that the Governor's Library Conference wishes to reaffirm the importance of professional training of librarians and the establishment of incentive programs to encourage professional growth in order to meet the highest standards of operation.

* * *